Sambhar lake in list of Ramsar sites

1854. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Sambhar lake of Rajasthan is one of the 25 Ramsar sites identified from India under Ramsar Convention and this lake has also been included in the list of 71 identified wetlands under National Wetland Conservation Programme for conservation and management;

(b) whether this lake is under stress mainly due to siltation and encroachment, resulting in shrinkage of its catchment area;

(c) whether any proposal for allotment of funds, is pending for consideration with Government for quite some time; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon and by when funds are proposed to be released to save this legendry lake from dying a slow death?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Siltation due to factors like desertification and overgrazing is a major problem faced by the Sambhar lake.

(c) and (d) So far an amount of Rs. 247.45 lakhs have been released for conservation activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, contour bunding, drainage line treatment, silt detention structures, check dams, gabion structures, etc. During current financial year, a proposal was received from State Govt. at a total cost of Rs. 178.79 lakhs for soil conservation and plantation work. An amount of Rs. 61.45 lakhs has been released to Govt. of Rajasthan for plantation work in three districts, *viz*. Nagaur, Sikar and Ajmer which fall under its catchment area.

CO_2 emission by airlines

1855. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether Government are planning to regulate airlines in terms of CO_2 emissions over our country in view of the impact of CO_2 emissions by them on our environment?